THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) (a) No, Sir. The production of finished carbon steel reached an all time high of 22.72 million tonnes during 1996-97, recording an increase of 6.17% over the previous year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

भिलाई इस्पात संयंत्र में नियुक्तियां

602. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव :** क्या **इस्पात** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि **:**

(क) भिलाई इस्पात द्वारा वर्ष 1995 एवं 1996 में कितने लोगों की नवीन किन-किन पदों पर की गयी है;

(ख) इन पदों पर स्थानीय, क्षेत्रीय एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति एवं अनुसूचित जाति के लोगों को प्राथमिकता दिये जाने एवं उनके लिये आरक्षित रखे गये पदों का विवरण एवं उन पर नियुक्त किये गये व्यक्तियों एवं पदों के नाम एवं नियुक्ति तिथि क्या है;

(ग) इन पदों पर नियुक्ति दी जाने से पूर्व क्या सभी प्रकार की योग्यताओं और अनिवार्वताओं की जांच प्राथमिकता एवं आरक्षित पदों के अनुसार कर ली गयी थी; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस तरह जांच कर सभी बातें सही होने की प्रमाणित करने वाले अधिकारियों के नाम एवं पद नामों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

इस्पात मंत्री तथा खान मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र प्रसाद वैश्य) : (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Revival of HSCO

603. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a revival package for HSCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) (a) to (c) SAIL have submitted a proposal to revive HSCO in a Joint Venture partnership with M£. Tyazhpromexport (TPE) of Russia. This proposal is dependent on the use of Rupee Debt funds for which an inter-Governmental agreement between Government of India and the Russian Government is required.

Failure of Domestic steel Industry to meet targets

604. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic steel industry hits foiled to meet the production 'and consumption targets set for 1996-97;

(b) whether both public and private sector are responsible for this;

(c) if so, the share of this failure attributable to public sector and private sector separately; and

(d) what are the reasons for this shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) (a) No, Sir. The production of finished carbon-steel reached an all time high of 22.72 million tonnes during 1996-97, recording an increase of 6.17% over the previous year.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Removal of freight equalisation system

605. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether leading steel producers in the country viz. SAIL, TISCO and RINL have sought total removal of freight equalisation system on iron and steel;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item in 'Business Telegraph' dated 17th June, 1997 on this issue; and

(c) if yes, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) (a) to (c) A Committee has been constituted to study the impact of partial withdrawal of frieght equalisation scheme on consumption, availability and use of various categories of steel in different parts of the country. Main producers, viz., SAIL, TISCO and VSP, have made representations to the Committee, which is chaired by the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel. The Government is yet to receive the report of the Committee.

Financial Irregularities in Bokaro Steel Plant

606. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been some inancial irregularities in the Bokaro Steel Plant during the past two to three years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the matter; and

(d) if yes, what are the results thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.